

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 13, 15, 16, 21, 29, 43 and 54-63 have been objected to. The examiner has requested that applicant use the terms "first surface" and "second surface" in these claims to improve the clarity of the claims. Applicants have complied with this request. These amendments are made without prejudice.

Rejections Based on Leonard, Wolf, Carroll and Hochgraf

Claims 1-18, 20-28, 31-35, 40, 43-45, 49-53, 55-59, 62 and 63 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Leonard et al. in view of Wolf, Jr. et al., Carroll et al., and Hochgraf (paragraphs 10-12 of the Office Action). Claims 19, 29, 30, 36-39, 41, 42, and 46-48 have been rejected over these references combined with various other secondary references as follows: Guha (claims 19 and 30, paragraph 13); Beard (claim 41, paragraph 14); Yarborough (claims 42 and 46, paragraphs 15 and 16); Beckett (claim 47, paragraph 17); Ilomaki (claims 29 and 48, paragraph 18); Oriaran (claim 36, paragraph 19); and Ilomaki and Oriaran (claims 37-39, paragraph 20).

Applicant's claims recite inspection of a surface of a web to detect liquid. The examiner acknowledges that Leonard does not teach inspecting a surface of a web (Office Action, page 6). Instead, Leonard inspects the surface of a diazo paper that is positioned under the web and stained by liquid that passes through pinholes in the web. To remedy this deficiency, the examiner cites Wolf. Like Leonard, Wolf determines the presence or absence of pinholes by inspecting the surface of an underlying sheet of diazo paper for stains. The examiner draws applicant's attention to a particular embodiment of Wolf's invention, in which the web that is being tested is translucent, and Wolf looks through the translucent web to inspect the underlying paper. While Wolf states that "the membrane is visually inspected" (col. 3, line 59) there is no explanation as to what this "inspection" involves. It is not clear that the inspection mentioned in that sentence relates to pinholes in the web or, even if it does, that the inspection is of liquid passing through the pinholes. It is unlikely that Wolf meant that he was inspecting the web for liquid that passed through pinholes in the web; liquid that passed through the web could not be

seen on the surface of the web that would be visible to Wolf, i.e., the upper surface to which the liquid was applied.

In the same paragraph Wolf goes on to say that pinholes may be sealed by the operator because "the purple mark produced by diazo paper in the presence of ammonia is visible through the membrane" (col. 3, lines 62-64). Thus, even when Wolf observes the markings on the diazo paper through a translucent web, he is nonetheless -- like Leonard -- searching for evidence of pinholes on the paper surface, not inspecting the web to detect liquid that has passed through the web.

This deficiency of Leonard and Wolf is not remedied by the other secondary references. Carroll describes liquid moisture seepage tests. Hochgraf is directed to machine inspection systems. Nor do the other references add anything of relevance with regard to inspecting the surface of a moving web.

Rejections Based on Leonard, Wolf and Hochgraf

Claim 54 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Leonard et al. in view of Wolf, Jr. et al. and Hochgraf (paragraph 21 of the Office Action). Claim 60 has been rejected as unpatentable over these references further in view of Ilomaki (paragraph 23), and claim 61 has been rejected as unpatentable over these references further in view of Beard (paragraph 24).

These claims are patentable for at least the reasons discussed above.

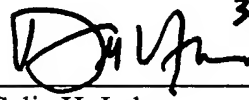
Enclosed is a \$55.00 check for the Petition for Extension of Time fee. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050, referencing Attorney Docket No. 10526-007001.

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Respectfully submitted,

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